

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method in a data processing system for transcoding content using a set of transcoders, the method comprising:
 - receiving a request for the content from a client, wherein the request includes a set of characteristics;
 - selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders having a best match to the set of characteristics, wherein selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders includes using the set of characteristics to perform a lookup of a transcoder corresponding to one or more characteristics in the set of characteristics in a transcoder data structure having entries for a plurality of transcoders; and
 - transcoding the content using the transcoder to form transcoded content.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of transcoders includes one or more specific transcoders and one or more generic transcoders, and wherein if none of the one or more specific transcoders are a best match to the set of characteristics, a generic transcoder is selected.
3. (Previously Presented) A method in a data processing system for transcoding content using a set of transcoders, the method comprising:
 - receiving a request for the content from a client, wherein the request includes a set of characteristics;
 - selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders having a best match to the set of characteristics; and
 - transcoding the content using the transcoder to form transcoded content, wherein the set of characteristics includes a content type and a set of client characteristics.
4. (Previously Presented) A method in a data processing system for transcoding content using a set of transcoders, the method comprising:
 - receiving a request for the content from a client, wherein the request includes a set of characteristics;

selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders having a best match to the set of characteristics; and

transcoding the content using the transcoder to form transcoded content, wherein the set of characteristics is a tuple including parameters for a document type definition, an application, a device, and a user.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of characteristics includes an application characteristic identifying an application on the client that is to receive the content and a device characteristic identifying a type of device that the client is, and wherein selecting a transcoder includes:

attempting to find a best match transcoder in the transcoder data structure based on the application characteristic; and

if a best match transcoder is not found based on the application characteristic, attempting to find a best match transcoder in the transcoder data structure based on the device characteristic.

6. (Previously Presented) A method in a data processing system for transcoding content using a set of transcoders, the method comprising:

receiving a request for the content, wherein the request includes identification information for a client originating the request;

selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders, wherein the transcoder provides a closest match to the identification information, wherein selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders includes using the identification information for the client originating the request to perform a lookup of a transcoder corresponding to the identification information for the client originating the request in a transcoder data structure having entries for a plurality of transcoders; and

processing the content using the transcoder.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the identification information comprises a content type and a set of client characteristics.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the identification information comprises a document type definition, an application, a device, and a user.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the set of transcoders includes one or more specific transcoders and one or more generic transcoders, and wherein if none of the one or more specific transcoders are a best match to the identification information for the client originating the request, a generic transcoder is selected.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the identification information for the client originating the request includes information identifying an application on the client that is to receive the content and information identifying a type of device that the client is, and wherein selecting a transcoder includes:
 - attempting to find a best match transcoder in the transcoder data structure based on the information identifying the application; and
 - if a best match transcoder is not found based on the information identifying the application, attempting to find a best match transcoder in the transcoder data structure based on the information identifying the type of device.
11. (Previously Presented) A data processing system comprising:
 - a bus system;
 - a communications unit connected to the bus system;
 - a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and
 - a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to receive a request for the content from a client through the communications unit in which the request includes a set of characteristics, select a transcoder from the set of transcoders having a best match to the set of characteristics, wherein selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders includes using the set of characteristics to perform a lookup of a transcoder corresponding to one or more characteristics in the set of characteristics in a transcoder data structure having entries for

a plurality of transcoders, and transcode the content using the transcoder to form transcoded content.

12-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A data processing system for transcoding content using a set of transcoders, the data processing system comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request for the content from a client, wherein the request includes a set of characteristics;

selecting means for selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders having a best match to the set of characteristics, wherein selecting means for selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders includes using means for using the set of characteristics to perform a lookup of a transcoder corresponding to one or more characteristics in the set of characteristics in a transcoder data structure having entries for a plurality of transcoders; and

transcoding means for transcoding the content using the transcoder to form transcoded content.

17. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the set of transcoders includes one or more specific transcoders and one or more generic transcoders, and wherein if none of the one or more specific transcoders are a best match to the set of characteristics, a generic transcoder is selected.

18. (Original) The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the set of characteristics includes a content type and a set of client characteristics.

19. (Original) The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the set of characteristics is a tuple including parameters for a document type definition, an application, a device, and a user.

20. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the set of characteristics includes an application characteristic identifying an application on the client that is to receive the content and a device characteristic identifying a type of device that the client is, and wherein selecting a transcoder includes:

attempting to find a best match transcoder in the transcoder data structure based on the application characteristic; and

if a best match transcoder is not found based on the application characteristic, attempting to find a best match transcoder in the transcoder data structure based on the device characteristic.

21. (Previously Presented) A data processing system for transcoding content using a set of transcoders, the data processing system comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request for the content, wherein the request includes identification information for a client originating the request;

selecting means for selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders, wherein the transcoder provides a closest match to the identification information, wherein selecting means for selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders includes using means for using the identification information for the client originating the request to perform a lookup of a transcoder corresponding to the identification information for the client originating the request in a transcoder data structure having entries for a plurality of transcoders; and

processing means for processing the content using the transcoder.

22. (Original) The data processing system of claim 21, wherein the identification information comprises a content type and a set of client characteristics.

23. (Original) The data processing system of claim 21, wherein the identification information comprises a document type definition, an application, a device, and a user.

24. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim, wherein the set of transcoders includes one or more specific transcoders and one or more generic transcoders, and wherein if none of the one or more specific transcoders are a best match to the identification information for the client originating the request, a generic transcoder is selected.

25. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 21, wherein the identification information for the client originating the request includes information identifying an application on the client that is to receive the content and information identifying a type of device that the client is, and wherein selecting a transcoder includes:

- attempting to find a best match transcoder in the transcoder data structure based on the information identifying the application; and
- if a best match transcoder is not found based on the information identifying the application, attempting to find a best match transcoder in the transcoder data structure based on the information identifying the type of device.

26. (Previously Presented) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system for transcoding content using a set of transcoders, the computer program product comprising:

- first instructions for receiving a request for the content from a client, wherein the request includes a set of characteristics;

- second instructions for selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders having a best match to the set of characteristics, wherein second instructions for selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders includes third instructions for using the set of characteristics to perform a lookup of a transcoder corresponding to one or more characteristics in the set of characteristics in a transcoder data structure having entries for a plurality of transcoders; and

- fourth instructions for transcoding the content using the transcoder to form transcoded content.

27. (Previously Presented) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system for transcoding content using a set of transcoders, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving a request for the content, wherein the request includes identification information for a client originating the request;

second instructions for selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders, wherein the transcoder provides a closest match to the identification information, wherein second instructions for selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders includes third instructions for using the identification information for the client originating the request to perform a lookup of a transcoder corresponding to the identification information for the client originating the request in a transcoder data structure having entries for a plurality of transcoders; and

fourth instructions for processing the content using the transcoder.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of characteristics includes a user characteristic identifying a particular user of the client, and wherein the user characteristic is used to select a transcoder that meets output preferences of the user.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the output preferences of the user include one or more of particular color preferences, screen layout preferences, and sound output preferences.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the identification information for a client originating the request includes information identifying a particular user of the client, and wherein the information identifying the particular user is used to select a transcoder that meets output preferences of the particular user.